

Claims

What is claimed is:

1 **1.** A debris gathering and pickup tool structured for use in
2 gathering debris contained within a selected area, and grasping
3 and lifting the debris for subsequent disposal, the debris
4 gathering and pickup tool comprising:

5 a) a gathering portion structured with a substantially
6 flattened gathering head and an elongated handle, wherein the
7 gathering head is rigidly coupleable to the elongated handle at
8 a pre-selected downward angle with respect to a longitudinal
9 axis of the elongated handle; and

10 b) a grasping portion structured with a substantially
11 flattened grasping member fixedly coupled to a user operable
12 grasping sleeve at an angle substantially equal to the downward
13 angle established between the gathering head and the
14 longitudinal axis of the elongated handle;

15 c) with the grasping portion arranged for being slidably
16 coupleable by the user to the gathering portion so that the
17 grasping portion may be selectively moved by the user between a
18 retracted position, wherein the gathering portion may be
19 employed for gathering debris and forming one or more bunches,
20 and a second grasping position, wherein debris may be grasped
21 between a second surface of the gathering head and a first

surface of the grasping member, for subsequent lifting and disposal.

2. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the grasping portion is slidably coupled to the elongated handle of the gathering portion by sliding the grasping sleeve over the elongated handle such that the handle passes through the center of the grasping sleeve.

3. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with claim 2, wherein a downward angle substantially in the range of 15 to 60 degrees is established between each of:

a) a plane of the gathering head and the longitudinal axis of the elongated handle; and

b) a plane of the grasping member and a longitudinal axis of the grasping sleeve.

4. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with claim 3, further including a locking mechanism that is activated by a user and structured for maintaining the grasping sleeve at a user selected position along the elongated handle, inclusively between the retracted position and the grasping position, until the locking mechanism is released by the user.

1 5. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with
2 claim 1, wherein at least one of:

3 a) the gathering portion is provided with the gathering head
4 rigidly coupleable to the elongated handle in a removable
5 fashion, such that any of a provided plurality of differing
6 gathering heads may be selectively coupled by the user to the
7 elongated handle to form a gathering portion; and

8 b) the grasping portion is provided with a grasping member
9 that is rigidly coupleable to the grasping sleeve in a
10 removable fashion, such that the grasping member may be
11 detached and separated from the grasping sleeve.
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1 6. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with
2 claim 5, wherein the plurality of gathering heads of the
3 gathering portion includes at least one of:

4 a) a rake head; and

5 b) a broom head.
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1 7. A debris gathering and pickup tool, comprising:

2 a) a gathering portion, including

3 i) a flattened gathering head;

4 ii) an elongated handle; and

5 iii) a coupling arrangement for coupling the gathering head
6 to the elongated handle, the coupling arrangement effecting the

7 coupling such that the gathering head is attached to the
8 elongated handle at a pre-selected downward angle with respect
9 to a longitudinal axis of the elongated handle; and

10 b) a grasping portion, including

11 i) a flattened grasping member;

12 ii) a user operated grasping sleeve, which is structured
13 with the grasping portion fixed thereto at an angle
14 substantially equal to or less than the downward angle
15 established between the gathering head and the longitudinal
16 axis of the elongated handle;

17 c) wherein the grasping portion is further structured for
18 being slidably coupleable, by the user, to the elongated handle
19 such that the grasping portion may be selectively moved by the
20 user to a selected position along the elongated handle between
21 a retracted position, wherein the gathering portion may be
22 employed for gathering debris and forming the bunches, and a
23 second distal grasping position wherein debris may be grasped
24 between a second surface of the gathering head and a first
25 surface of the grasping member, enabling a lifting and
26 subsequent disposal of gathered debris.

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1 8. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with
2 claim 7, wherein the downward angle established between the
3 gathering head and the elongated handle, as well as the

4 grasping member and the grasping sleeve, is substantially in
5 the range of 15 to 60 degrees.

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1 9. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with
2 claim 8, wherein the downward angle is substantially 30
3 degrees.

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1 10. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with
2 claim 8, wherein the downward angle is adjustable by the user.

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1 11. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with
2 claim 7, wherein the slidable coupling of the grasping sleeve
3 to the gathering portion is realized by the elongated handle
4 being placed coaxially through a center of the grasping sleeve
5 of the grasping portion, so that a longitudinal axis of the
6 grasping sleeve is substantially aligned with the longitudinal
7 axis of the elongated handle.

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1 12. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with
2 claim 7, further including a locking mechanism that is user
3 operable for enabling the user to maintain the grasping sleeve
4 in one of an inverted position or the retracted position, so
5 that the grasping sleeve, while slidably coupled to the

6 elongated handle, will not slide or otherwise substantially
7 move until the locking mechanism is released by the user.
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1 13. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with
2 claim 12, wherein the locking mechanism further enables the
3 user to maintain the grasping sleeve at any user selected
4 position along the elongated handle, inclusively between the
5 retracted position and the grasping position.
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1 14. The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance with
2 claim 7, wherein the grasping portion is slidably fixed to the
3 elongated handle portion and the coupling between the grasping
4 member and the grasping sleeve is structured such that the
5 grasping member can be detached from the grasping sleeve when
6 not needed for grasping and picking up debris.